

Library of Birmingham Archives & Collections

Sources with reference to REFUGEES

The number in **bold** is the number required to order a document.
The sources are listed in chronological order.

War Refugees Fund (Birmingham and District). Finance committee, registration forms, correspondence.1914-1920.

MS 652

War Refugees Fund: Allocation Committee Minutes, Sept. 1914-Apr.1919
302728-31 [ZZ 32]

War Refugees Fund: Employment Committee Minute Book, Sept. 1914-Apr.1919
302732 [ZZ 32]

War Refugees Fund: Cash Book, Sept. 1914-Apr.1922
302725 [ZZ 32]

War Refugees Fund: General Committee Minute Book, Sept. 1914-Dec. 1919
202721 [ZZ 34]

War Refugees Fund: Ledger, Sept. 1914-Sept. 1919
302723 [ZZ 34]

War Refugees Fund: Detailed expenditure, Sept. 1914-Aug. 1918
302726-27 [ZZ 32]

War refugees Fund: Belgian Refugee Register, c. 1915
302724 [ZZ 34]

War Refugees Fund: London Grants receipt book, Sept. 1918-Feb. 1919
302722 [ZZ 34]

War Refugees Fund: Newspaper Cuttings, Sept. 1914-Jul 1918
302733 [IIR 29]

War Refugees Fund: Reports, 1914-1916.
254389. BI F/3

War Refugees Fund: Miscellaneous leaflets, 1914-1916.
531707. LF 21.86

Belgian Workmen's Association. L'Union Eendracht. Monthly journal. 1917.
267229 LF 21.82.

Spanish Refugees Children's Relief Fund. 1936- Mostly financial records;
See Box list.
MS 740

Birmingham Council for Refugees.

Founded in 1939 to bring under one executive body the work being done
By the Birmingham Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees, the Birmingham
Jewish Refugees Committee, the Society of Friends Refugee Committee
and the Representative Council of Birmingham Jewry.

The Council established hostels at Wheeley's House; Edwardian House (for
refugees from Czechoslovakia); Elpis Lodge (hostel for boys: Refugee
Children's Movement) the Old Rectory Hostel and the Sutton Coldfield Hostel.
The Council organised classes to teach English, helped with health care, and
ran social activities. In 1942 it was a co-founder, with the British Council, of
the Birmingham International Centre.

Annual reports and correspondence. 1939-52.
LF21.86

The Free German League of Culture was founded in 1938, and was first based at the London
home of the painter Fred Uhlman and Diana Croft. It was an anti-fascist organisation of
refugees who had fled from racial and political persecution in Germany. As an organization
of people interested in German culture, it included scientists, scholars, writers, musicians,
actors and artists. The most well-known artist was probably Oskar Kokoschka. By the end of
its first year, the group numbered over 1,000 members and they organised events,
entertainment, lectures and concerts for all refugees. The organisation was dissolved in
1946.

The Birmingham branch of this organization held an exhibition at 21, Bennet's Hill (offices)
in the autumn of 1942, called "Allies inside Germany: the underground struggle of the
German Anti-Nazis against Hitler."

Free German League of Culture in Great Britain, Birmingham Branch.
Leaflets, circulars, tickets etc. 1942-46.
Includes a poster advertising the art exhibition mentioned above.
LF 21.82

' CHILDREN'S ART FROM ALL COUNTRIES ' was an international children's art exhibition held
at Lewis's stores, Birmingham in January 1942, arranged by the Birmingham Council for

Refugees on behalf of the Refugee Children's Evacuation Fund. It was a touring exhibition, first opened in London in August 1941, and included drawings, paintings and handicraft work by children from twelve different nationalities, including refugee children in Britain, particularly children interned with their mothers on the Isle of Man and Czech refugees living in Cumbria. The Birmingham exhibition was opened by Elizabeth Cadbury and was supplemented with art work by local school children showing the effects of air raids on Birmingham. There is a leaflet advertising the exhibition and newspaper cuttings about it.

470255. Birmingham Scrapbook. Vol. 24. p. 193.

468905. Birmingham Newspaper Cuttings: Art. 1937-1943. pp. 214-215

Refugees from Germany and Austria contributed to an exhibition of European art and handicraft which was shown at Barrow's Stores, Corporation Street, Birmingham in April, 1942.

The exhibition was organised by the Co-ordinating Committee of European Clubs and all proceeds went to the Red Cross Fund for English and allied prisoners of war.

Paintings and drawings, sculpture, and handicrafts were shown, executed by Germans, Austrians Czechs, Poles, and Romanians, some of whom had been interned in British camps. The exhibition included posters and paintings by Andre Drucker, who later established cake and coffee shops in Birmingham.

468905. Birmingham Newspaper Cuttings: Art. 1937-1943. pp. 220-221

Hans Schwarz came to Birmingham from Vienna as a sixteen year old refugee in 1939. His first job was as a machine minder in the printing department at Cadbury's. Through the agency of Mr. John Cadbury, he was able to study art at Ruskin Hall School of Art, Bournville, and at the Birmingham College of Arts and Crafts. He went on to become a commercial artist for a Birmingham firm and a teacher at the Ruskin Hall School of Art, Bournville. In 1946, he decorated the walls of the dining room of the Bournville (Birmingham) Youths' Club with eight murals depicting music and dance. The committee had selected his designs from six other entries without knowing that they were the work of a former club member. One of the members of the Youth's Committee who thanked him was Elvio Garcia, a refugee from Spain.

Birmingham Newspaper Cuttings volume: Art. 1943-1952. pp. 68-69.

Else Rosenfeld was born in Berlin to a Christian mother and Jewish father. He was a doctor in one of the poorer areas of the city and from an early age, Else helped with his work. She took up social work and continued after her marriage in 1920. Her husband was also Jewish and a member of the Prussian Parliament. When the Nazi party came to power, life became difficult for them and though they managed to send their children as refugees to England, they could only obtain one other permit. Else sent her husband to care for their children and remained to help in the Jewish community in Munich. She was forced to 'go underground' in 1942, and eventually escaped to Switzerland in 1944, where she worked among the refugees there until she joined her family in London in 1946. She then travelled in Britain, lecturing at prisoner of war camps about the treatment of Jewish people by the Nazi regime.

In 1963, she lived with her daughter in Birmingham, and was interviewed by Charles Parker, BBC radio producer and campaigner against racism, who produced her life-story in twenty three episodes on the Midland Home Service.

Else Rosenfeld also wrote her autobiography, *The Four Lives of Else Rosenfeld* (1964).

Birmingham Archives & Heritage service holds the following relevant records:

MS 4000/2/93 Draft and final radio broadcast scripts, production and post production papers, correspondence, magazines about Hitler, concentration camps, Germany and neo-nazism.

MS 4000/4/book 1302 *The Four Lives of Else Rosenfeld* (1964)

MS 4000/6/1/30/1C - 35C Digitized tape recordings of the radio programmes and recordings of Else Rosenfeld.

Kenyan Asian refugees. Newscuttings. 1968-69.

File containing press cuttings from national newspapers focusing on government policy on immigration, the arrival in Britain of Asians living in Kenya due to restrictions imposed on 'foreign' workers in that country, and the government reaction to their arrival, leading to the 1968 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, which restricted entry to this group. Articles cover the opposition to this legislation, and its effects on Asian communities already living in Britain.

MS 2142/A/7/24

Ugandan Asian refugees

Correspondence and printed material. 1972-1974.

The Birmingham Anglican Diocese helped to co-ordinate charitable work for the refugees in the Birmingham area. There are files of papers from the section of the Diocesan records which relate to the Diocesan Board of Mission and Unity.

As many of the new arrivals had very little with them, A Uganda Asian Relief Trust was set up as a charity and applications could be made for clothing, furniture, heaters, kitchen equipment etc. Information was provided in English and Gujerati.

In 1973, when the Government decided to close down the Uganda Resettlement Board, a campaign was launched to continue as a permanent Migrant Settlement Service.

BDR/B12

The AFFOR [All Faiths for One Race] organization also took action to help the refugees, joining the Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Evacuees from Uganda and assisting with advice and welfare at one of the resettlement camps. The records of this organization include two reports published by the Minority Rights Group.

MS 2220 [MRG box]

The Midland Office of the National Council of Social Service was also involved in providing advice and assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee, and to the resettlement camps, giving information on the networks of voluntary agencies and individuals who could help the refugees.

File of correspondence and printed material relating to evacuees from Uganda.

MS 396/37

Vietnamese refugees, 1980. Papers relating to settlement in Birmingham.

EP 113/16/6/1

Records of the Hebrew Congregation in Birmingham

See catalogue at www.connectinghistories.org.uk

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Artistic work with children and adult refugees continues today. An article by Tony Collins from the Birmingham Mail describes work by 'Craftspace' with refugee children and women. **Birmingham Mail, 4 August 2008.**

Books

D. Joly, Refugees from Vietnam in Birmingham-Community Voluntary Agency and the Role of Local Authorities. Location: Floor 6. **305.8959204296**

R. Kershaw & M. Pearsall, Immigrants and Aliens-a Guide to Sources on UK Immigration and Citizenship. Location: Floor 6. **929.341KER**

Z. Josephs, (1988) Survivors, Jewish Refugees in Birmingham. 1933-1945. Location: Floor 6 **942.496004924**

Celebrating Sanctuary: Birmingham and the Refugee Experience. (2001)

LP 21.86

M.Dick Celebrating Sanctuary: Birmingham and the Refugee Experience, 1750-2002. (2002)

LP 21.86

Borderlines: Birmingham Asylum seekers and Refugees. (2005)

LP 21.86

Bosnian Cultural Centre, Midlands: First Bosnians in the UK. (2006)
In English and Bosnian, DVD included.

LP 21.86

HABER. Bosnia and Herzegovina refugee UK network. 2001-

LF21.86

Sanctuary: West Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support. 2001-2002

LF21.86

Websites

www.unhcr.ch/world/euro/uk.htm

www.interafrica.org/links/displace.html

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

www.ramproject.org.uk Refugees, asylum seekers and the mass media.

www.bannertheatre.co.uk

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